Coal mining operation in Dumka district of Bihar

3450. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Eastern Coalfields Ltd. to take up coal mining operations in kathikund, Amlapahari and Gopikander areas of Dumka district in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has found a coal deposit of more than 400 million tonnes of top grade coal in that area;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that such coal deposit is found around the area of approximately 48 sq. km. of that locality; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) As per the regional drilling conducted by GSI, about 400 million tonnes reserves of coal in the grade varying from "E' to "C' have been located. However, these reserves are in the category of "INDICATED" and "INFERRED" and can be converted into "PROVED" category only after detailed drilling is conducted. ECL can draw up a proposal for mining in these areas only after the above indicated exercise I completed. As per the information available with Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), a total of 9 coal seams with thickness ranging from 3 to 18 M are present in this area and part of the coal reserves may be exploited by opencast mining.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The total coal bearing area will be about 48 sq. km.

Decreasing Demand for Coal

†3451. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of coal in the country has been going down for the last few years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the total demand of coal during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 separately;

(c) the demand for the same in the steel, cement and power sectors during the above mentioned years; and

(d) the quantity of the shipment of the coal made for each sector during the above mentioned years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS DR. [SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) Due to general economic conditions specially in the cement and steel sectors and non-materalisation of coal based power generation capacity, the over all projected demand of coal has not materalised in the last few years leading to less offtake from the coal companies. However, with the improved conditions during the last year there is improvement in offtake.

(b) The total assessed demand of coal based on projections by the consumers during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:—

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Demand
1997-98	323.38
	(6.80)
1998-99	325.38
	(7.50)
1999-2000	311.83
	(5.70)

(Figures in bracket indicate middlings)

(c) and (d) The Coal demand by Steel, Cement and Power Sectors and the total quantity of coal supplied to each of these sectors during years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given below:—

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

Sector	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Demand	Offtake	Demand	Offtake	Demand	Offtake
Power	205.90	212.92	220.70	204.68	214.00	219.16
	(4.10)	(3.62)	(3.70)	(3.02)	(3.00)	(2.13)
Cement	18.20	10.13	15.00	8.61	10.00	8.88
Steel	41.40	23.61	36.83	24.98	36.83	26.00

*Provisional
Offtake: excludes imported coal.
Figures in brackets indicate middling.

Government monopoly in coal mining

†3452. DR. D.MASTHAN:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work related with mining of coal is still running under Government monopoly;

(b) if so, the total number of mines where mining work has since been going on during 1999-2000 under Government monopoly;

(c) the number of such mines and their location State-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these States have a large number of such mines also where mining work has become difficult; and

(e) if so, the names of States where they are located and their number in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) It is a fact that most of the coal mining in the country is with the Public Sector. In fact 97.59% of the total coal production of the country is produced by the coal companies in the Public Sector.

(b) and (c) Out of 561 coal mines of the country, 552 coal mines are being operated by the Public Sector coal companies. The State-wise distribution of the 552 coal mines is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.